GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2273
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2001
GENDER DISCRIMINATION
JAI PRAKASH

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have gone through the report regarding gender discrimination prepared and submitted by National Commission for Women; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government to remove gender discrimination on the basis of this report?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a)&(b) The National Commission for Women (NCW) has not prepared and submitted to the Government any specific report exclusively on gender discrimination. NCW has, however, informed that its Annual Report and other publications/Reports brought out from time to time point out gender discrimination in various fields. The NCW has informed that the Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the Annual Report of the Commission mention the action taken on gender discrimination also. However, the Government has already taken a number of initiatives to remove gender discrimination and to ensure active participation of women in all spheres of national activities. Some of the major initiatives are:

• Adoption of National Policy for the Empowermentof Women with the objective to ensure equal access to participation and decision making of women in social, political and economic spheres.

• Observance of year 2001 as Women's Empowerment Year to focus on women specific issues and to accelerate action thereon to enable women to take their rightful place in the mainstream and participation in the nation's development.

• Institution of five National Awards known as Stree Shakti Puraskar, in 1999 to be given annually to honour and recognise the achievements of individual women who have riumphed under difficult circumstances and have fought for and established the rights of women.

• Initiatives such as 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendments made in 1993 to enbable the women to participate in decision making at the very grass root level through the Panchayati Raj Institutions and local bodies.

• Introduction of the Constitution (Eighty Fifth) Amendment Bill, reserving 30% of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislatures in Parliament.

• Institution of Self Help Group based schemes to facilitate access of women to micro-credit, which encourages participation of women in the economic sphere.